

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous listing of claims with the following listing of claims.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein
said proximal portion is adapted to be inserted into an anus of a person such that said proximal portion causes the anus to constrict around said proximal portion and thereby seal said proximal portion against the anal wall, ~~said body further including an expanded portion having a larger size than said proximal portion and interposed between said proximal portion and said distal portion,~~ said expanded portion being adapted to engage with an anal opening to limit insertion of said proximal portion into the anus and seal said body against the anal opening.
2. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said proximal portion includes a rounded or tapered tip having a smaller cross-section than said proximal portion to facilitate insertion of said proximal portion into the anus.
3. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim [[1]] 35, wherein said expanded portion includes a circular portion having a largest diameter of said expanded portion and which extends beyond an outer periphery of said proximal portion around the entire periphery of said proximal portion, a first truncated conical surface tapering from said largest diameter circular portion to said proximal portion and a second truncated conical surface tapering from said largest diameter circular portion to said distal portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said ~~distal portion defines a lumen adapted to mate with a connector of the inflation device~~ opening of said first lumen is at an outermost end of said first lumen, said opening of said second lumen is at an outermost end of said second lumen and said opening of said third lumen is at an innermost end of said third lumen.

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim [[1]] 35, wherein said body is substantially tubular, said proximal portion being defined by a wall having an outer diameter of about 1.062 inches, said expanded portion being defined by a wall having a maximum outer diameter of about 1.75 inches and said distal portion being defined by a wall having an inner diameter of about 0.375 inches.

6. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim [[1]] 35, wherein said distal portion has first and second arms connected to said expanded portion of said body, said first arm defining [[a]] said first lumen and [[an]] said opening ~~at an end opposite said expanded portion communicating with~~ of said first lumen, ~~said first lumen being adapted to mate with a connector of the inflation device,~~ said second arm defining [[a]] said second lumen and [[an]] said opening ~~at an end opposite said expanded portion communicating with~~ of said second lumen.

7. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 6, wherein said second arm includes a constriction.

8. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 6, wherein said proximal portion and said expanded portion have a common central axis and said second arm of said distal

portion has a central axis parallel to said common central axis of said proximal portion and said expanded portion.

9. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said distal portion has first and second arms, said first arm defining ~~[[a]]~~ said first lumen adapted to mate with a connector of the inflation device and ~~[[,]]~~ said second arm defining ~~a second~~ said third lumen and ~~[[an]]~~ said opening to an exterior of said body communicating with said second in said third lumen, said regulating means comprising a pressure relief valve arranged in connection with said ~~second third~~ lumen for releasing air to the exterior of said body when a specific air pressure in the rectum is reached.

10. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 9, further comprising signal means for providing a signal when air is released via said valve.

11. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 10, wherein said signal means comprise a component arranged in connection with said second arm and arranged to produce an audible signal when air is released via said valve.

12. (Currently Amended) An air introduction device for testing an anastomosis for leaks, comprising:

a body defining an interior space and first, second and third lumens communicating with said interior space, said body having a proximal portion including said first lumen and which is adapted to be inserted into a patient's gastrointestinal tract, ~~[[and]]~~ a distal portion adapted to mate with an air inflation device via said second lumen to enable air flow through

said body into the gastrointestinal tract when said proximal portion is inserted into the patient's gastrointestinal tract and an expanded portion having a larger size than said proximal portion, interposed between said proximal portion and said distal portion and adapted to engage with a body opening to limit insertion of said proximal portion into the patient's gastrointestinal tract, said first and second lumens being arranged on opposite sides of said interior space such that an air flow generated by the air inflation device when mating with said distal portion flows in a direction from said opening defined by said second lumen into said interior space and then into the patient's gastrointestinal tract through said opening defined by said first lumen and not outward from said body through said opening defined by said second lumen, said third lumen defining an opening communicating with said interior space at a location between said openings defined by first and second lumens and arranged such that air flow from the patient's gastrointestinal tract must flow in a direction from said interior space through said third lumen, said body being constructed such that said second and third lumens do not overlap and thus the air flow in the direction from said opening defined by said second lumen in the direction into said interior space and through said opening defined by said first lumen does not overlap the air flow from said interior space through said third lumen, and

a signal indicator device arranged at least partially in within said body and in a fixed position relative to said body, and arranged to generate a signal when a specific air pressure in the patient's gastrointestinal tract is reached.

13. (Currently Amended) An air introduction device for testing an anastomosis for leaks, comprising

a body defining an interior space and first, second and third lumens communicating with said interior space and each extending from said interior space in a different direction to provide three different, non-overlapping flow paths to and from said interior space, and comprising

insertion and sealing means for enabling insertion of a proximal portion of said body including said first lumen into an anus of a person such that the anus constricts around said proximal portion and thereby seals said body against the anal wall, and

coupling means for enabling coupling of said body to an air inflation device via said second lumen such that air is directable from the inflation device in a first flow path from the inflation device into said interior space in said body and then from said interior space in a second flow path out of said body through said first lumen into the person's gastrointestinal tract; and

regulating means arranged in connection with partially within said third lumen in said body for regulating air pressure in the patient's bowel, said regulating means being arranged to release air from the patient's bowel when the air pressure in the patient's bowel exceeds a predetermined pressure such that the air being released flows backward in the second flow path through said first lumen into said interior space and then from said interior space in the third flow path out of said body through said third lumen.

14. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 13, wherein said first and second arms of said distal

portion are connected to [[said]] an expanded portion of said body and each of said first and second arms includes ~~a lumen~~ one of said lumens and an opening at an end opposite ~~the~~ said expanded portion.

15. (Withdrawn) The air introduction device of claim 49, wherein said body is substantially tubular and said insertion-limiting means comprise an expanded portion of said body arranged behind said proximal portion and having a larger diameter than said proximal portion, said expanded portion being adapted to engage with the anal opening to limit insertion of said proximal portion into the anus and seal said body against the anal opening.

16. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 14, wherein said proximal portion includes a rounded tip having a smaller cross-section than said proximal portion to facilitate insertion of said proximal portion into the anus.

17. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 13, wherein said ~~coupling means comprise a~~ first lumen is arranged on a distal portion of said body and adapted to mate with a connector of the inflation device.

18. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 17, wherein said distal portion has first and second arms, said first arm defining said first lumen, said second arm defining [[a]] said second lumen.

19. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 18, ~~further comprising wherein said regulating means~~

comprise a pressure relief valve arranged in said ~~second~~ third lumen for releasing air when a specific air pressure in the rectum is reached.

20. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 19, further comprising signal means for providing a signal when air is released via said valve.

21. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 20, wherein said signal means comprise a component arranged in connection with said second arm and arranged to produce an audible signal when air is released via said valve.

22. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 18, further comprising a component arranged in connection with said second arm and arranged to produce an audible signal when a specific air pressure is reached within the rectum.

23-32. (Canceled)

33. (Withdrawn) An anastomosis leak tester, comprising:
an inflation pump having a compressible central portion, a pair of valves on opposite sides of said central portion and arranged to provide a uni-directional flow of air through said central portion upon intermittent compressing of said central portion, and a connector; and

the air introduction device of claim 35 said distal portion being arranged to mate with said connector of said inflation pump.

34. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 12, wherein said signal indicator device is arranged to generate an audible indication when the specific air pressure in the patient's gastrointestinal tract is reached.

35. (Currently Amended) An air introduction device for testing an anastomosis for leaks, comprising:

a body defining an interior space and first, second and third lumens communicating with said interior space, said body having a proximal portion including said first lumen and which is adapted to be inserted into a patient's gastrointestinal tract, [[and]] a distal portion adapted to mate with an air inflation device via said second lumen to enable air flow through said body into the gastrointestinal tract when said proximal portion is inserted into the patient's gastrointestinal tract and an expanded portion having a larger size than said proximal portion, interposed between said proximal portion and said distal portion and adapted to limit insertion of said proximal portion into the patient's gastrointestinal tract, said first and second lumens being arranged on opposite sides of said interior space such that an air flow generated by the air inflation device when mating with said distal portion flows in a direction from said opening defined by said second lumen into said interior space and then into the patient's gastrointestinal tract through said opening defined by said first lumen and not outward from said body through said opening defined by said second lumen, said third lumen defining an opening communicating with said interior space at a location between said openings defined by first and second lumens and arranged such that air being released from the patient's gastrointestinal tract flows in a direction from said interior space through said third lumen, said body being

constructed such that said second and third lumens do not overlap and thus the air flow in the direction from said opening defined by said second lumen in the direction into said interior space and through said opening defined by said first lumen does not overlap the air flow from said interior space through said third lumen, and

regulating means arranged ~~in connection with~~ partially within and in a fixed position relative to said body for regulating air pressure in the patient's gastrointestinal tract, said regulating means being arranged to release air from the patient's gastrointestinal tract through said third lumen when the air pressure in the patient's gastrointestinal tract exceeds a predetermined pressure.

36. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said regulating means are arranged to release air from the patient's gastrointestinal tract when a specific air pressure in the patient's gastrointestinal tract is reached.

37. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said regulating means comprise a pressure relief valve having an inlet communicating with ~~[[an]]~~ said interior space of said body communicating with the patient's gastrointestinal tract and arranged to allow air to be released from the patient's gastrointestinal tract when a specific air pressure in the patient's gastrointestinal tract is reached.

38. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 37, further comprising means for generating an audible indication when air is released via said pressure relief valve.

39. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 1, wherein said distal portion comprises two arms each of which communicates with said expanded portion, a first one of said arms defining said first lumen which is being matable with the inflation device, said regulating means comprising a pressure relief valve arranged in connection with a second one of said arms such that an inlet of said pressure relief valve communicates with [[an]] said interior space of said body and an outlet of said pressure relief valve communicates with the ambient atmosphere.

40. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said regulating means comprise a pressure relief valve structured and arranged such that when the air pressure in the gastrointestinal tract is above a specific air pressure, said pressure relief valve opens a conduit for air flow from the gastrointestinal tract to the ambient atmosphere.

41. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said regulating means are arranged to release air from the patient's gastrointestinal tract when a specific air pressure in the patient's gastrointestinal tract is reached and to generate an audible indication when air is being released.

42. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 41, wherein said distal portion comprises two arms, a first one of said arms being defining said first lumen which is partly receivable of the inflation device, said regulating means being arranged in connection with a second one of said arms defining said third lumen.

43. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 41, wherein said regulating means comprise a component having upper and lower flaps.

44. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim [[1]] 35, wherein said expanded portion expands outward from said proximal portion uniformly around the entire periphery of said proximal portion.

45. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said body is monolithic.

46. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 12, wherein said body is ~~made of an elastomeric material~~.

47. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 12, wherein said ~~body is a single member~~ opening of said first lumen is at an outermost end of said first lumen, said opening of said second lumen is at an outermost end of said second lumen and said opening of said third lumen is at an innermost end of said third lumen.

48. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 13, wherein said body is ~~made of an elastomeric material~~.

49. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 13, wherein said ~~body is a single member~~ opening of said first lumen is at an outermost end of said first lumen, said opening of said second lumen is at an outermost end of said second lumen and said opening of said third lumen is at an innermost end of said third lumen.

50. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 13, wherein said regulating means are arranged at least partially in said body.

51. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 13, wherein said body further comprises insertion-limiting means for limiting insertion of said proximal portion of said body into the anus and occluding an opening of the anus.

52. (Currently Amended) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said body is ~~made of an elastomeric material~~.

53. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said body is a single member.

54. (Previously Presented) The air introduction device of claim 35, wherein said regulating means are arranged at least partially in said body.